

The Bethel Courier.

FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 2, 1866.

THE CONDITION OF THE SOIL.

A vast amount of learning has been bestowed on the analysis of soils. Many farmers suppose it to be an easy matter to analyse a soil so as to be able to point out deficiencies to a certainty. But the fact is but few men have ever lived who are capable of doing it. Prof. Johnson, a young chemist of great promise in Yale College, regards the idea a futile one. We have long been of the opinion and have endeavored to impress the idea on Agriculturists that proper cultivation was of quite as much importance as the composition of the soil. When we plow and harrow we bring particles of the soil into new relations to each other so as to produce new changes and combinations, and consequently to render the elements of the soil in a soluble condition for plants; an absolute condition, we think, though of late controverted by Liebig. We would not discard analysis. It gives the farmer a better idea of his work when he knows the composition of his soil, imperfect though it be, and a man at once acknowledges himself a slave who does not take advantage of all the light afforded him, no matter whether it came from the brain of the scientific man, or his more intelligent neighbor, or from his own experience. One has only to read the lectures of prominent Agriculturists in different parts of the Union on the various topics to which they have devoted special attention, to see that some of the best intellect of the nation is devoted to agriculture. We close this article by quoting from a recent lecture of Prof. Johnson at the Agricultural Convention at New Haven.

The most fertile soils contain the finest particles, or in other words soils are like linen, better for having fine texture. Most soils are deficient mechanically rather than chemically. There is great store of plant food, but not finely enough divided. A soil of pulverization, will produce 15 bushels of wheat, would, or should, yield 30 if worked up twice as fine. Why? Because there is twice the amount of surface of particles exposed to the action of heat and cold, and rain, and therefore, twice as much plant food set free. Take your multiplication table and figure up this idea as far as you like, and then you will see the use of sub-soil ploughs, and clod-crushers and good harrows, and deep ploughing, and all these modern contrivances for breaking up beds into a good seed-bed.

DEATH OF JEREMIAH BURBANK, Esq. We have to record the death of Jeremiah Burbank, Esq., of this town. He died on Thursday, after a painful sickness of several months. He was 75 years of age. Mr. Burbank has been a prominent citizen of this town for more than half a century. The funeral will take place at the 1st Congregational Church, on Saturday next, at 1 o'clock. We shall give a more extended obituary next week.

The Atlantic Monthly for March is the best No. to our taste, that we have ever read. Its articles on "The Telegraph," and on "Screw Propulsion," are valuable. The French Character is well drawn.

TEMPERANCE CONVENTION. The temperance meeting last Friday evening, was very fully attended. The speeches were of unusual interest and well befitted the occasion. We wrote out a report for this week's Courier, but whether some wicked fellow filched it from our pocket, or whether it crept out of itself, we do not know. We have seen nothing of it since. At any rate, so long as our public speakers are not too intemperate in their speeches, we shall expect much interest from their meetings.

TO CORRESPONDENTS. Jocko should have sent us his name to ensure attention. Moreover, we are not versed in the rules of Terpsichorean etiquette to enable us to answer his queries.

The Musical Convention now in session in this village, is quite successful. A goodly number of singers are present submitting to a thorough drill under Mr. Farrington. There will be two Concerts given, in connection with the convention, on Thursday and Friday evenings, March 1st and 2d, at the Universalist Chapel. The concerts will consist of Songs, Duets, Trios, Quartettes, Hymn-tunes, Anthems, &c. On Friday evening there will be given the Oratorio of "Kathar, the Beautiful Queen," a truly beautiful thing for a concert. Portions of this "Oratorio" are to be read by a clergyman. Tickets 15 cts., children 10 cts. Ministers and their families admitted free. Doors open at 6 1/2 o'clock. Singing to commence at 7. We hope to have a full account of the Convention, next week, from the Secretary, Mr. Newell.

OWNERS. Every attempt of the ladies in this vicinity to carry out their leap year privileges, whether in a sleigh ride or a lerce, has thus far brought on a rain storm. We cannot account for it unless it is because they have given the preference to other gentlemen than ourselves. Nobody ever gained anything by slighting us.

We understand that Hon. Mark H. Dunnell has entered into partnership with Stephen Boothby, Esq., of Bangor, and has opened an office in Portland for the practice of law.

The Spring Term of Gould's Academy has opened very well indeed. A goodly number of students are from abroad, who look as though they had a purpose in view in attending school.

Our neighbor J. S. Abbot, the Jeweller beneath our sanctum, has fitted us out with a very handsome cane for which he has our warmest thanks. We have heard of editors being caned, but we are now ready to reverse the matter, and give a cane to the man as old as we are who can run, or walk a mile faster than ourselves.

The Boston Post refers to the bill pending in the Maine Legislature, "to set off a portion of Norway to Paris," and thinks a newly arrived foreigner would be astonished to learn of so daring a project to disturb the peace of continental Europe!

There is a general strike among the shoemakers of Massachusetts for higher wages. A scale of prices have been agreed upon which shall be demanded hereafter. It is said that there is much unanimity and enthusiasm among the strikers in all quarters.

The Doomed Chief. or, two hundred years ago. Boston, G. G. Evans & Co., 45 Cornhill.

We have received and read with much interest, the above work, by D. P. Thompson, Esq., the well known author of "Green Mountain Boys," "Gaut Curly," and other popular historical tales. It is printed on nice white paper and bound in blue and gold, and furnished for the low price of \$1, and 21 cts. to pay postage. Send for a copy.

The Pemberton Mill property in Lawrence is advertised to be sold at public auction, on the premises, on the afternoon of March 1st. It will give an opening for a new factory that may be beneficial to Lawrence.

WATCHES. It sometimes surprises us to see how much capital is invested in watches. Go into any country store on a stormy day and you will find every third man tawtering his neighbor to swap watches. Wherever there is a crowd of boys, there you will see a busy exchange of watches going on. These watches vary in price from nine shillings to seven or eight dollars in value. The cheaper the watch the more brisk the trade. Every one expects to find a better watch than the one he parted with, and as he finds out his mistake, he immediately sends it to the jeweller who tinkers away upon it and advises him how to take care of it. He soon finds that it is of no use, and he disposes of his watch the best way he can.

Whenever we see men trading watches, we always think of the Indian who bought a watch in London and was towards night comparing it with the clock on the cathedral, when he burst out into a hearty laugh, because his little watch had beat that great big clock two hours since noon.

For ourselves we don't carry a watch at all, nor have we these five years. We can always tell when it is noon to a minute by a peculiar sensation at the stomach. One thing is however a novel to us. Where do the old watches and old horses all go to? We scarcely ever knew an old horse die, or an old watch to be past repairs.

We have two pairs of scissors in our office. One pair is well pointed, but is never at hand; the other has both points broken off, and is always at command.

Bro. Elwell says it would not be any honor to have a town named for him. Perhaps not. Then he says that he would accept the gift of a town itself. Only think of an Editor owning a town! What could the fellow do with it? Let us know.

The London correspondent of The Birmingham Post says: "Kossuth has disappeared suddenly from among his friends, and there can be little doubt that he has gone to Hungary, with revolutionary designs."

THE HUNGARIAN.—From Barrington, Feb. 27, the following has been received:

"One boat complete, with oars, lashed to the thwart, was found bottom up at Port Lotous. Several pieces of goods have been picked up off Cape Sable. Goods are strewn along the beach from Torbet Island round Cape Sable as far east as Ragged Island. The clearance of the Hungarian has been found among the matter drifted ashore, which states that she had thirty-six passengers."

We would call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Helper's Impending Crisis, which will be found in another column of our paper. It is said to be selling at the rate of from 12,000 copies per week, and the demand continues unabated.

In the town of Freedom, N. H., a fellow named Whitten was recently taken before a justice of the peace on a charge of assault, and fined eight dollars. Whereupon the defendant entered a complaint against "the Court" for drunkenness, and had his honor tried before another justice, who found him guilty of being a common drunkard, and fined him five dollars and costs.

The F. papers upon publishing the results of the successive balloting for the Speaker in our House of Representatives, state that "Monsieur Scatterling" has little chance of being elected.

Bideford is building a City Hall at an expense of \$60,000—to be one of the finest halls in the State.

Engagement between the Mississippi and the Minuteman.

A thrilling incident of a kind rarely experienced in these times of national peace occurred on board the U. S. steamship Mississippi during her recent cruise on the coast of Japan. On the 6th of October, 1858, the frigate arrived off the entrance of the harbor of Nagasaki. Before leaving Hakodadi, intelligence had been received of the difficulties between this country and England, growing out of the course of the English cruisers in boarding American ships in the Gulf, and, as strongly convinced were the officers of the Mississippi that war existed between the two nations, every preparation was made to meet the ships of the enemy, supposing any might be lurking about the harbor of Nagasaki, awaiting their approach. They did not mean to be caught as the Mississippi was in the war of 1812.

At nine o'clock in the forenoon, a sail was discovered standing out of the harbor, in fighting trim, under topsails and jib—running before the wind. The strange sail was at once conjectured to be an English frigate, standing out, to give battle, and in a moment all was commotion on board the Mississippi. The crew were called to quarters, the guns were cast loose, loaded with round shot and shell, and trained upon the supposed enemy; the boarders were armed with pistols and cutlasses; the decks were covered with sand, to drink up the blood of the dying; coils were brought up to receive the wounded, and the surgeons were in readiness to operate in case their services were required. Powder boys ran hither and thither, and everything on board bore a warlike appearance.

The strange sail, a much larger ship than the Mississippi, approached rapidly. Every man stood by his gun. The lock strings were drawn taut, and the men waited in breathless silence the approach of the stranger, determined, if she was a belligerent, to give her one broadside at least. The flag of the approaching vessel being concealed behind her topsails, it could not be made out, but as she hoisted the port bow of the Mississippi, it was found to be the stars and stripes! Every one drew a long breath. But just then the flag was hoisted down, which induced the fear that the stranger had played a ruse de guerre upon the Mississippi, in order to take her. Every man sprang to his gun, obedient to the order: "Train the guns upon her!" But the American flag was again run up, and it was soon discovered that the vessel was the U. S. steamship Minuteman, bound home. From her they learned that the expected war had all ended in smoke. The retreat was hastened, the magazines were closed, and after interchanging greetings the frigate stood on for anchorage at Nagasaki.—Boston Traveller.

ESCAPE OF A YOUNG LADY.—Mary Fuller, a young girl imprisoned in the Ohio Penitentiary to counterfeiting, made her escape on the 1st instant, from the fifth story of the prison, and by passing out of her window and passing along the side of the building, upon the cornice or water table, about eighteen inches broad. Passing along the front of the building, at the immense height of fifty or sixty feet from the ground, with nothing to hold to, and upon the projection scarcely visible from the ground, she reached at about the distance of about fifty feet from her room window, a place where it was necessary for her to jump about twelve feet to the roof of the west wing. The leap was taken, proved a safe one, and the dauntless woman next fastened to the corner of a roof a rope which she had made of her bedding, grasped it in her hands, and swinging from the roof passed down the outside of the wall over windows where other convicts were sleeping, and down the terra firma, where, at a distance of forty-five feet below the roof, she alighted in the arms of a confederate.—Ban Times.

SECOND HAND CUFFS.—About the last article one would expect to see sold at second hand—and yet certain persons in Jersey City re-said to be implicated in such a business in connection with the New York Bay Cemetery.

The practice is said to be to place a number of coffins in a vault until some ten or a dozen have accumulated, and subsequently to remove the bodies, which are buried by wholesale in a pine box. The more expensive coffins are taken back to the warehouses and resold to customers. There is to be an investigation.

California would make forty-five States of the size of New Hampshire if The sea coast extends nearly a thousand miles, and the territory extends into the interior twelve hundred miles.

IRON MANUFACTURE.—The Pembroke Iron Works have been in successful operation for 26 years, and now give employment to 350 men. During the six months ending Nov. 30, 1859, they manufactured 115 tons of pig iron, 87 tons of scrap iron, 1523 tons of puddled iron, 1067 tons of manufactured iron, 312 tons of plate, 248 tons of nails, 80 tons of rivets, 759 tons of gas pipe, 240 tons of ax iron, and various other articles.

Sanford Hinkley, of Canton, Me., committed suicide on Sunday, by cutting his throat.

Mr. McAuley of Chicago, died last week from the effects of a blow from the powerful fist of a person named Sheken. An old quarrel was renewed in a drinking saloon, and Sheken struck him once only, but such was the violence of the blow, that the bones of McAuley's face, were literally "smashed in." He fell backward like a log to the floor, the blood streaming from his wounds, and died a few hours after.

Crimoline is more potent than one could have expected, says an English paper, the mania for it having extended to the women of Keffreud, who, according to the Graham's Town Journal, have recently set their black heads upon the greatest possible circumference of skirt. These dainties use iron wire, and they get enough of it for sixpence to give them all the inflation of petticoat their hearts can desire. One ironmonger in Graham's Town sold a hundred weight of wire to the colored ladies of his connection in a fortnight.

A wedding took place in Detroit, the other day, between an aged female of sixty-five and a young man of twenty-one. They were cousins, and on uniting themselves in matrimony became possessed of ten thousand dollars by bequest. The donor of this money had, upon his death bed, willed them five thousand dollars each, under the condition that they should marry in the family.

A young man employed at the Eastern Railroad depot, Gloucester, on Sunday night last at about midnight, in a fit of somnambulism, left his home and went to the engine house at the station, where he commenced sawing wood. He had been watched and tracked, but was allowed to finish sawing two or three sticks before he was awakened.

OLD PEOPLE BURN TO DEATH.—An unusual number of cases of the burning to death of old people, especially females, in consequence of their clothes taking fire, have occurred this season in various parts of the country. A case of this kind occurred in this city a few weeks since, which has not before been recorded. A lady of nearly eighty years of age, highly connected, was standing before the fire, reading the bible. Her skirt caught from the grate, and though aid was immediately at hand the burns were quite severe, and with the shock of one of advanced years, caused her death the next morning.—Boston Traveller.

A LIVERY CITY FATHER.—A Philadelphia Alderman, who was on a spree the other night, was carried through the streets on a sofa, by his cronies. Sympathizing inquirers were informed that the occupant of the furniture had been badly hurt, and that they were carrying him to the hospital. Subsequent bar room shindies were indulged in to an extent hardly in keeping with magisterial dignity.

DIABOLICAL. The Bangor Whig publishes a communication from Sedgewick, disclosing one of the most beautifully and diabolical transactions we have ever seen on record, of a feud named Richard Orrell, Capt. of a wood coaster between that place and Rockland, who has kept his own daughter on board—a girl of 14 years—and compelled her to submit to his lustful passions and those of a man with him, and in case of refusal to kick and bat her until her person is covered with the marks of his violence. The girl at last escaped to a neighbor's and disclosed the facts. The brutal father has been arrested, pledged guilty, and is now lodged in jail to await the April term of the court.

The total eclipse of the sun, which takes place on the 18th of July of this year, commences in California and terminates on the borders of the Red Sea. During the eclipse the planets Mercury, Venus, Jupiter and Saturn will be visible together, a spectacle so rare, that centuries must elapse before it can be witnessed again.

The Montreal Pilot says that a former clerk in the City Bank, convicted eighteen months ago of forgery, and sentenced to imprisonment in the Penitentiary for five years, has just come into a fortune of £60,000.

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AN EXPERT FEAT. The Eastern Times says: "Yesterday, the 21st, George Reagan, a young man perhaps sixteen years of age, ascended to the truck of the flag staff on the Park to reach the balyards. The distance which he had to shin up the naked topmast is forty feet above the eyes of the topmast rigging which point is itself about 85 feet from the ground, making 125 in all as the result of his climbing. He probably would go up and sit astride of a comet's tail had he a pole long enough to reach that distance."

ENGLISH RAILWAYS. The largest railway line in England is the North-western, nine hundred and ten miles; the Northern is seven hundred and forty-six. Eight railroads have their termini in London, and their gross receipts are close upon a million of dollars per week. The total railway receipts in Great Britain, are two and a half million dollars a week. The total investment in these roads are \$1,963,418,775.

CHEAP FUEL. The Baltimore and Ohio R. R. uses coal for its engines. It has just contracted for its supply for the current year at fifty-nine cents a ton.

A LIFE OF INDUSTRY. John Gordon, 24, of Sweden, Me., aged 57 years, has put up since he was twenty-one years of age, five thousand six hundred and twenty-two rods of stone wall, and is now hale and hearty. Who beats this?

A bill is before the New York Legislature, to prevent the sale of burning fluid, camphene, and other dangerous explosive substances used for illumination.

Some pious people have offered a prize for the "best essay" on the immorality of dancing. Isn't this cruel? Dancing is about all the exercise that a large portion of American women seem to think suitable for them and therefore the poor things take no other. (Argue.)

New York, Feb. 22. Washington's Birthday was celebrated in this city with as much parade and show as the inclement state of the weather would permit. Several civil associations paraded the streets, and some half-dressed regiments of soldiers, up to noon, when a heavy wind and rain storm, which then set in, very materially marred the demonstration.

A conductor on one of the city railroad cars, says a Cincinnati exchange paper, has been fined \$25 for compelling a man to yield his seat to a lady. The court held that no lady could claim a seat as a right. No lady would claim a seat on such terms.

WAREHAM, Feb. 22. A boy aged 7 years, son of Mr. Henry Gifford, was drowned in the Parker mill pond this afternoon. His body was not recovered at 4 1/2 o'clock.

The Bridge across the Mississippi river at Clinton Iowa, is completed, and cars passed over it on the 28th of January. It is a substantial structure, costing about \$66,000.

It is said that out of the German population of fifty thousand in the State of Wisconsin, there is not a single individual from the Federal confederacy in the Penitentiary of the State.

Aldon S. Carver, who formerly resided in Rockland, was shot in California, recently, by an Irishman while at work on a claim in Cold Spring, Columbia County.

Daniel McAllister, of Stoneham, Me., aged forty-five years, has killed or captured eighty three bears on or about the range of mountains separating the Oxford and Androscoggin valleys.

Since her admission to the Union, the State of Texas has had six different individuals in the National Senate, and five of them were natives of South Carolina.

A member of Congress receives a salary \$3000 per annum; the cost of his franking privileges, according to the Postmaster General's estimate, averages just twice as much, or \$1,500,000 in the aggregate!

The Bethel Courier.

MAILS.

Mails close as follows:—
To Portland, 10 A. M.
To Island Pond, 4 P. M.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE OF TRAINS.
Leaving train leaves Bethel for Portland at 10 15 A. M. Returning—arrives from Portland at 4 15 P. M.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.
Every Sabbath at 11 o'clock, A. M. and 7 1/2 P. M., in the following churches:—
Rev. Mr. WARDEN, Bethel.
Rev. Mr. GARLAND, Bethel.
Rev. Mr. GAINES, Bethel.
Universalist, Bethel.

SERVICES FOR PRAYER.
At day evenings at 6 1/2 o'clock, at the vestry hall in Bethel. Tuesday evenings Prayer Meeting Saturday evenings.

A MELANCHOLY FATE. Some three years ago, a topographical engineer in the Russian service, but a Prussian by birth, becoming involved in some difficulty with the government, fled to New York with his wife and child, moving also about \$3000 of his fortune. His name was Schultz—C. P. if our informant recollects correctly. He has spent the intervening time and his entire property in perfecting an improvement upon the steam engine, and securing an American and English patent for it. It was at last completed, and about a fortnight ago the first machine was put up at the paper mill in West Comington, in Hampshire County. It worked like a charm, and last Friday, the happy inventor wrote to his wife, exclaiming in the prospect of a speedy and abundant reward for his long labors, and promising to return to her on Monday. On Saturday evening he went to the mill to observe the working of the machinery, and while suggesting some slight change, he stepped upon a belt, was at once drawn under a large cylinder and instantly crushed to death. The body was recovered as soon as possible; and on Monday—placed in a plain coffin and accompanied by a single mechanic, who had learned to be his friend while assisting him in putting up his engine—all that remained of him was carried out to return to his family in the way to New York.—Pittsfield Eagle.

Miss Susan F. White, daughter of Mr. Thomas N. White, of Bristol died in this town on Sunday evening last, under the following distressing circumstances: A few weeks since while in company with several of her playmates, enjoying the pleasure of skating, she accidentally fell, striking her head with great force on the ice. She was taken up insensible, but soon revived. She complained, however, of a severe pain in the head, and soon after became delirious, in which state she continued until her death, suffering the greater part of the time the most excruciating pains. She was about 16 years of age.

A woman named Sarah Jackson, been arrested at Waukegan, Wis., charged with larceny of the horn of Thompson Richmond of Lisbon, in which were horns, eighteen cattle, forty sheep, eleven thousand bushels of wheat, one thousand bushels of oats, two carriages, hay and farming implements were destroyed. She confesses her guilt.

The Governor-General of Eastern Siberia has reported that the Kirghis of Siberia, sympathizing with the designs of the Emperor of Russia, the abolition of serfdom, have unanimously expressed their determination to emancipate their slaves.

Capt. Harrison, who was drowned by the capsizing of his boat in the Solent at Southampton, England, was one of the most successful navigators of the age, having crossed the Atlantic safely one hundred and eighty times. He has commanded the Acadia, Britannia, Iberia, American, African and Arabia.

The Capitol of the State of Tennessee, at Nashville, not yet finished, has cost so far, \$826,000. The Capitol of Ohio, at Columbus, unfinished, is estimated to cost when completed \$1,552,267. The Capitol of South Carolina, when finished, will cost \$2,500,000.

TELEGRAPHING.—The operation of sending dispatches direct from Hali Ex, Nova Scotia, to Milwa, Kie and Prairie du Chien, via Quebec, Kingston, Ogdensburg, Detroit and Chicago, was performed on Monday, 13th inst., the lines working over three thousand miles with ease.

Valuable salt springs have been pierced in Grand Rapids, Saginaw, and Baltimore, Mich. The latter was discovered in boring a well for the Grand Trunk Railroad line. The Grand Rapids salines yield a bushel of salt from twenty-five gallons of water.

LIFE UPON A RAILROAD.

There is an old saying that the friendship of a dog is better than his ill-will, and for many years, in my capacity as a railroad conductor, I have found the above to be true to a letter; but mind, I am not saying that I have no enemies. I undoubtedly have a few, and I don't think there is a man that lives but has more or less. A little kindness now and then to the many needy ones a conductor will find almost every trip over his road, will not be lost, and he will, in many cases, find from his "bread cast upon the waters" a return fourfold. Yet he must see a great deal of judgment in bestowing his charity upon even those he thinks entirely worthy of such bestowal. I will, in connection, relate a little incident by which a little kindness saved my life, and the lives of all the passengers on board my train.

The western division of our road runs through a very mountainous part of Virginia, and the stations were few and far between. About three miles from one of these stations, the road runs through a deep gorge of the Blue Ridge, and near the centre is a small valley, and there, hemmed in by the everlasting hills, stood a small one and half story cabin. The few acres that surrounded it were well cultivated as a garden, and upon the fruits thereof lived a widow and her three children, by the name of Graff. They were, indeed, untended in the cold charities of an outside world. I doubt much if they ever saw the sun shine beyond their own native hills. In the summer time the children brought berries to the nearest station to sell, and with the money they bought a few of the necessities of the outside refinement.

The oldest of these children I should judge to be about twelve years and the youngest about seven. They were all girls, and looked nice and clean, and the healthful appearance and natural delicacy gave them a ready welcome. They appeared as if they had been brought up to fear God, and love their humble home and mother. I had often stopped my train and let them get off at their home, having found them at the station some three miles from home, after disposing of their berries.

I had children at home, and I knew their little feet would be tired in walking three miles, and therefore felt that it would be the same with these fatherless little ones. They seemed so pleased to ride, and thanked me with such hearty thanks, after letting them off near home. They frequently offered me nice, tempting baskets of fruit for my kindness, yet I never accepted any without paying their full value.

Now if you remember, the winter of '54 was very cold in that part of the State, and the snow was nearly three feet deep upon the mountains. On the night of the 26th of December of that year, it turned around warm and the rain fell in torrents. A terrible storm swept the mountain tops, and almost filled the valleys with water. Upon that night my train was winding its way, at its usual speed around the hills and through the valleys, and as the road bed was all solid rock, I had no fear of the banks giving out. The night was intensely dark, and the wind moaned pitifully through the deep gorges of the mountains. Some of my passengers were talking in a low voice, to relieve the monotony of the scene. Mothers had their children upon their knees, as if to shield them from some unknown danger without.

It was near midnight, when a sharp whistle from the engine brought me to my feet. I knew there was danger by that whistle, and sprang to the brakes at once, but the brakeman were all at their posts, and soon brought the train to a stop. I seized my lantern and found my way forward as soon as possible, when what a sight met my gaze! A bright fire of pine logs illuminated the track for some distance, and not over forty rods ahead of our train a horrible gulf had opened its jaws to receive us!

The snow, together with the rain, had torn the whole side of the mountain out, and eternity itself seemed spread out before us. The widow Graff and her children had found it out, and had brought light brush from their home below, and built large fires to warn us of our danger. They had been there more than two hours, watching beside that bonfire of safety. As I went up where the old lady and children stood, drenched through by the rain and sleet, she grasped me by the arm and cried:

"Thank heaven! Mr. Sherburn, we stopped you in time. I would have lost my life before one hair of your head should have been hurt. Oh, I prayed to Heaven that we might stop the train, and my God, I thank thee!"

The children were crying for joy. I replied, I don't very often pray, but

I did then and there. I knelt down by the side of that good old woman, and offered up thanks to an All Wise Being for our safe deliverance from a most terrible death, and called down blessings without number upon that good old woman and her children. Near by stood the engineer, fireman and brakeman, the tears streaming down their bronzed cheeks.

I immediately prevailed upon Mrs. Graff and the children to go back into the cars out of the storm and cold. After reaching the cars I related our hair-breadth escape, and to whom we were indebted for our lives, and begged the men passengers to go forward and see themselves. They needed no further urging and a great many ladies went also, regardless of the storm. They soon returned, and their pale faces gave full evidence of the frightful death we had escaped. The ladies and gentlemen vied with each other in their thanks and heart-felt gratitude towards Mrs. Graff and her children, and assured her that they would never, never forget her, and before the widow left the train she was presented with a purse of four hundred and sixty dollars, the voluntary offering of a whole train of grateful passengers. She refused the proffered gift for some time, and said she had only done her duty, and the knowledge of having done so was all the reward she asked. However, she finally accepted the money, and said it should go to educate her children.

The railroad company built her a new house, gave her and her children a life pass over the road, and ordered all trains to stop and let her off at home when she wished. But the employees needed no such orders, they can appreciate all such kindnesses—more so than the directors themselves.

The old lady frequently visited my home at H—, and she is at all times a welcome visitor at my fire-side. Two of the children are attending school at the same place.

So you may see that a little kindness cost me nothing and saved my life.

THE QUAKER'S WATCH. An eccentric quaker once took his watch to the maker's with the following words:—

"Friend, I have once more brought my erroneous watch, which wants thy friendly care and protection; the last time he was at my school he was in no way benefited by thy instruction; I find the index of his tongue that he tells false, and that his motions are wavering and unsettled; which makes me believe that it is not right in truth towards man—I mean the main spring; I would have thee improve him with thy adjusting tool of truth, that if possible thou mayest drive him from the error of his ways. Imagining his body to be foul, and the whole mass corrupted, purge him with thy cleansing stick from all pollution so that he may vibrate and circulate according to truth. I will board him with thee a few days, and I will pay thee when thou requir'st it. In thy late bill thou charged me the one-eighth of a pound sterling, which I will pay thee also. Friend, when thou correctest him do it with-out passion, unless by severity thou drivest him to distraction. I would have thee let him visit the sun's motions, and teach him his time calculation table and equation, and when thou findest him conformable to that send him home with a just bill of remittance to the by thy true friend, Broad Brim."

"MAMMA PRAYED FOR YOU." Sitting in our sanctum, says a western editor, now some years past, on a cold and blustering autumn day, we were attracted by the entrance of a bright-eyed, thoughtful, little boy, but thinly clad, who told the old story—"No father—family sick—out of employment," etc. We were at first disposed to express a meek sympathy, and may we could do nothing; but the boy's large eyes were so swimming with tears, and so trembled from head to foot, while his conduct and his demeanor bore such an impress of truthfulness and sincerity, that we could not find it in our heart to speak harshly, and finally dismissed him with quite a handsome little sum, contributed in the main by our priors—who, by the way, are proverbial the world over, for their generosity. The next evening, we were somewhat surprised to find the little fellow again hanging diffidently about our office door. This time, however, his eyes were bright with happiness, and a sweet smile played over and lit up his handsome features. We asked him to come in, but he merely stepped forward timidly, so as to catch our ear and stammeringly whispered, "Mamma prayed for you last night," and then disappeared as noiselessly as he came. Thank God, thought we, for that moth-

er's prayer. And though years have passed since then—though we have battled through noisy incidents, and mingled in life's struggles, as we are all forced to do—a remembrance, "Mamma prayed for you," still sounds as grateful and as sweet as when it first fell from the lips of that innocent boy.

INFLUENCE OF THE SURFACE-SOIL.

There is something remarkable in the influence on vegetable growth, of the upper stratum of the soil. Take, for example, its effect on the growth of young trees. If a young peach-tree, for instance, is allowed to stand in a good soil, which from neglect becomes hardened and crusted on the surface, it will make but a few inches growth in a single season. But if, instead of becoming crusted, the surface of the soil for only an inch or two downwards is mellow, and daily stirred, the growth of the tree will be more than double, and sometimes more than quadruple, although the roots may all be below the stirred portion. A more striking difference occurs when the surface is allowed in one instance to become coated with grass, and in the other is kept mellow. Although the roots of the grass extend downwards but a few inches, yet we have known this mere surface coating so to retard the growth of large peach trees, that they would not make more than two or three inches growth, while similar trees, standing in mellow cultivated ground, grew from two to three feet in a season. The roots of these trees were mostly a foot below the surface.

We do not propose here to discuss the theory of this remarkable surface influence, but merely to point out the facts, and to suggest some important practical hints.

Manure for trees and crops operates in two important ways. The first and most obvious by direct supply to the small rootlets in the soil. To afford such supplies in the best manner, it should be finely pulverized, and minutely diffused through the soil at just such a depth as the roots of the trees and crops extend—neither wholly buried deep, nor left wholly near the top—but be intermixed through every part. This mode we do not propose to speak of at present. The second way is its influence on the crust of the surface, as already alluded to. On very light sandy or gravelly soils, this influence is as important, so far as the mellowing effect of manure mixed with the surface is concerned. On such soils there is little to hold or retain its fertilizing portions, and it is soon dissipated and lost. Straw or coarse litter, strictly as a mulch, is better here than manure merely. But on clayey soils manure becomes highly advantageous. It combines with and mellows the crust in a most efficient manner. The great advantage which it possesses when thus applied to clay soils, is not only softening the hard crust to which such soils are liable, but in the ready combination which is effected between the clay and the vegetable matter.

There are various ways in which surface-mulching and mulching with straw benefit crops. Among others a most important one is shelter in winter. The soil about young trees and plants, if perfectly bare and hardened by exposure, radiates heat upward towards a clear sky on a cold winter night with great rapidity. A very thin coating of manure or litter is a great protection. Hence the benefit derived from the winter mulching of our fruit-trees. In arctic regions, the difference between the success and failure of dwarf pears, has sometimes resulted from this alone. Exposed crops of winter wheat have been saved from winter-killing by surface-mulching in autumn with thin coats of material.

The protection which such a coating affords the soil and the plants upon its surface from severe and cutting winds, is frequently of great importance. A screen of trees, or a high, tight board fence, often saves young trees or plants from destruction; and next to such a screen is a mantle covering the bare earth—Country Gentlemen.

FASHION.

A lady correspondent of one of the dailies says:—

Some ladies connected with this amateur musical association of this city, concluded to gratify the lords of creation by appearing at a musical soiree given last week, without these same much abused hoops. They did so; and although they were ladies of fine forms, and dressed in other respects with much taste, alas! they were shorn of their glory. The ladies themselves were rather pleased with the result of their experiment, but their lords and masters (the most of them possessing such incumbrances)

delivered that, after all, the ladies were the best judges of what was becoming to them, and begged they would go back to first principles.

This shows how perverted the taste of even sensible men may become through the force of habit. It has always been the same even with the most ridiculous fashions.

Men "first endure, then pity, then embrace!"

But this vitiation of the masculine taste is by no means general, so far as crinoline is concerned. The general feeling of mankind is decidedly against it. For our part, to see a finely-formed lady, without hoops, is almost an equal pleasure in these days to seeing a fine statue. Of course no sensible man wishes his wife or sister to make herself conspicuous by setting up general censure, however absurd, at defiance. He may prevail upon her to the privacy of home, to discard her hoops, but in the world she must dress, in moderation, as the rest of the world does. Not the less, however, does he despise such a tasteless, inconceivable and vulgar fashion.

Appropos to this subject, we may be allowed to hope that some of these days, we shall have a President whose wife will be able to do the country great service, by regulating its fashions. With a lady possessing beauty, accomplishments, and the talent of society at the White House, much might be done to Americanize the fashions that come to us from Paris. It would be a noble triumph for a woman of good sense and high spirit to make her circle at Washington the abode of costume for this Western world. Such a Republican break water against the tide of foreign propriety and folly, that often sets upon us from the old world, is greatly needed. Really, in considering who is to be elected the next President, it may be worth while to consider what kind of a wife he is blessed with. As for bachelor candidates, they should never be elected without giving a pledge to marry within the first three months of the Presidential term.

[Sat. Eve. Post.]

BIG BLOCKS OF GRANITE.

Some of the blocks of granite used in the construction of the Treasury Building extension at Washington are the largest, we presume, which have ever been moved in this country; and they are moved a very considerable distance being all carried from the eastern part of Maine. They are transported to Washington by water, and after their arrival there, moved, by ox power, upon a sort of double pulley system, a distance of two miles, perhaps, in the ground where they are wanted for use. The work of moving them is performed with ease, though slowly, and with comparatively very little animal power—not more than eight or ten yoke of oxen being employed to move a block weighing seventy tons. The fluted pillars, great numbers of which are used in the building, are about forty feet long, and will weigh fifty or sixty tons. The largest blocks are thirty to forty feet square and two or three feet thick, will weigh upwards of seventy tons.

The ease with which these blocks are moved and fixed in their places is a source of wonderment, and seems to be the perfection of mechanical skill and ingenuity. And yet how insignificant is the achievement when compared with the triumphs of ancient mechanism and art. In the foundation of the great Temple of the Sun, at Balbec, may still be seen, even in the second course, stones which are thirty-seven feet long and nine feet thick; and under this, about twenty feet from the ground, three stones which alone occupy one hundred and eighty-two feet in length by about twelve feet thick. These three stones are estimated to weigh 900 tons each. But we read of an Egyptian Idol Temple, Boria, far surpassing this, in which there was a sanctuary composed of a single block of granite sixty feet square. This is the largest and heaviest stone mentioned in the history of nations. These things teach us not to be too proud of what we have done; and as what has been done can be and probably will be done again, they show us at the same time what yet remains for us and our successors to accomplish.—Boston Courier.

NOTICE.

All persons indebted to the subscriber or subscription to the BETHEL COURIER for the last year, are requested to make immediate payment. JAS. NUTTING. Bethel, Nov. 25, 1859.

Corn, Beans, Wheat Rye, and all other kinds of Country Produce wanted in payment for the Courier.

SHORTS!

20 TONS of Shorts, for sale at at

PARIS FLOUR MILLS. WOODMAN, PHELPS & CO. So. Paris, Oct. 20, '59.

ISLAND POND HOTEL,

Island Pond, Vt.

Through Trains dine here. Way Trains remain over night.

Porters in attendance to convey Baggage to the house and to carriages.

Stairs and Covered Passages from Depot to Hotel. G. G. WATERHOUSE, Proprietor.

OF EVERY VARIETY, FAIRBANKS & BROWN, 1754 Broadway, Boston.

F. S. CHANDLER, NOW OFFERS

GREAT INDUCEMENTS

To those who are in want of

GOODS!

Usually kept at Country Stores.

DRESS GOODS!

DeLAINES, PLAIDS, PRINTS,

LADIES CLOTH, in Brown, Black and Drabs,

Schenile Scarfs, SHAWLS, HOODS

ARMLETS, GAUETTE GLOVES,

Watch Spring Hoop Skirts, Watch Spring and Ratan Skirt Hoops

Ladies are particularly invited to call before purchasing elsewhere.

CHOICE GROCERIES,

HATS, CAPS, BOOTS, SHOES, RUBBERS, &c.

Crockery, Glass and Hard Ware, Confectionery of all kinds.

Figs, Nuts, Raisins, Bees Honey, Lemons, &c.

STATIONERY,

READY-MADE CLOTHING,

POWELL PAPERS, Double and Single. Powder and Shot.

Kerosene Oil at \$1.00 per gallon.

Paints, Oil, TAR, Rosin, Putty, Clank, &c.

APPLES. Wholesale or Retail.

All of which will be sold cheaper than the Lowest, at Cash or Country Produce.

P.S. A few more Horses, Carriages, Sleighs, Buffalo Robes, Bedsteads, Mattresses, &c. for sale at low Prices.

F. S. Chandler.

INGERSOLLS' Eating House!

77 Middle Street, (Three doors west of Post Office.)

PORTLAND, MAINE.

COMMERCIAL HOUSE,

CORNER WILLOW AND FINE STREETS, Opposite the Old Custom House,

Portland, Me.

J. N. DAVIS, Proprietor.

G. T. Railroad

Portland District.

WINTER ARRANGEMENT.

Commencing Nov. 28, 1859.

Trains leave daily, (Sundays excepted) as follows:—

Leave Portland for Island Pond and Washington, at 7.15, A. M. and 1.15, P. M.

Leave Island Pond for Portland, at 7.30, A. M. and 1.30, P. M.

Leave Bethel for Portland, at 10.30, A. M. Leave Bethel for Island Pond, at 4.30, P. M.

S. T. CORSEN, Superintendent.

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OF EVERY VARIETY, FAIRBANKS & BROWN, 1754 Broadway, Boston.

Courier Book, Job & Card Printing Office,

No. 2, Main St., BETHEL, ME.

BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, PROGRAMMES,

BILL HEADS, SHOP BILLS, Visiting and Wedding Cards,

Printed at short notice and on the most reasonable terms.

The office has a good assortment of material for

POSTER PRINTING, OF ALL KINDS.

Orders by mail or express promptly attended to.

James Nutting, Proprietor.

PARIS MILLS FLOUR!

THE SUBSCRIBERS HAVE recently purchased, and are now receiving a large quantity of

NEW WHEAT, of a very superior quality.

They have made extensive additions to their buildings, and are now prepared to furnish

NEW FLOUR, put up in new barrels, and branded with their own names, of the different grades of

Double Extra, Extra, Fancy, &c., which they offered at wholesale and retail. They guarantee that no party can furnish a better article of flour at the same price, and every barrel is warranted as represented.

Particular attention is given to the whole-sale department of the Flour Business, and orders are respectfully solicited and will be promptly answered.

They also keep on hand a supply of

Corn, Rye, Barley, &c. SHORTS by the ton and at retail.

All of which will be sold at lowest prices.

WOODMAN, PHELPS & CO. South Paris, Oct. 20, 1859.

IOURECNE ELIXIR.

THE proprietor introduces his Elixir to the public with a positive knowledge that it will perform all that he claims for it. He did not originate it for the sake of having something to sell, but to cure himself of Dropsy, and Sore Throat, of years standing. He succeeded completely in doing so, and now after having a full trial of its remarkable curative power, he is enabled to state that it is a great variety of other cases, with equal success, he offers it to the public for the relief of the suffering.

Try it, you gloomy and despairing, there is Health and Happiness in store for you yet.

IT CURES DYSPEPSIA. IT CURES CONSTIPATION. IT CURES SORE THROAT. IT CURES A SLUGGISH LIVER.

It strengthens and regenerates the Nervous System; and there is no medicine known that causes the food to do so much good, and as so much healthy nutrition to the Blood and Vital Forces of the system as the Elixir.

For sale by JAMES NUTTING, Bethel. Prepared and sold by W. A. KEEPER, Nashua, N. H.

House for Sale.

The Subscriber offers for Sale a DWELLING HOUSE, occupied by himself, situated near the Universal Church.

Cheap for Cash, if applied for soon.

Bethel, Nov. 25, 1859.

P. S. A lot on the opposite side of the street will be sold with the above if wanted.

APOTHECARY.

DR. GROVER HAS Procured a new supply of MEDICINES

to add to his extensive variety, which will be sold in small quantities, as cheap as can be bought elsewhere.

R. J. D. LARRABEE,

Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Artists' Materials, Engraving, Picture Frames, Looking Glasses, &c., &c.

A great variety of Beautiful Engravings, Mezzotints and Lithographs, English, French and American Drawing Materials.

Of the most approved Manufacture. Oil and Watercolor Paints, Frames, Oval and Square of all Patterns. Supplies for the Grocers and Oriental Painting. Also—New and Standard.

SHEET MUSIC, 66 Exchange St., Portland, Me.

Horse for Sale.

A YOUNG HORSE, perfectly sound, of kind and docile, and very fast on the road. For further particulars enquire of the subscriber.

Bethel, Jan. 20, 1859.

Country Produce

Wanted in exchange for the Courier.

A Weekly Family Paper

VOL. 2.

The Bethel Courier.

JAMES NUTTING, Proprietor.

N. T. TRUE, Editor.

The Bethel Courier is published every FRIDAY MORNING—Office in the main block, BETHEL HILL.

Subscription prices: One copy one year, (in advance) \$1.00. One copy one month, .10. One copy one year, (in advance) \$1.00. One copy one month, .10.

Advertisements: 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 3 insertions, \$1.00. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 4 insertions, \$1.25. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 5 insertions, \$1.50. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 6 insertions, \$1.75. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 7 insertions, \$2.00. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 8 insertions, \$2.25. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 9 insertions, \$2.50. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 10 insertions, \$2.75. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 11 insertions, \$3.00. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 12 insertions, \$3.25. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 13 insertions, \$3.50. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 14 insertions, \$3.75. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 15 insertions, \$4.00. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 16 insertions, \$4.25. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 17 insertions, \$4.50. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 18 insertions, \$4.75. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 19 insertions, \$5.00. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 20 insertions, \$5.25. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 21 insertions, \$5.50. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 22 insertions, \$5.75. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 23 insertions, \$6.00. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 24 insertions, \$6.25. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 25 insertions, \$6.50. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 26 insertions, \$6.75. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 27 insertions, \$7.00. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 28 insertions, \$7.25. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 29 insertions, \$7.50. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 30 insertions, \$7.75. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 31 insertions, \$8.00. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 32 insertions, \$8.25. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 33 insertions, \$8.50. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 34 insertions, \$8.75. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 35 insertions, \$9.00. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 36 insertions, \$9.25. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 37 insertions, \$9.50. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 38 insertions, \$9.75. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 39 insertions, \$10.00. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 40 insertions, \$10.25. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 41 insertions, \$10.50. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 42 insertions, \$10.75. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 43 insertions, \$11.00. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 44 insertions, \$11.25. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 45 insertions, \$11.50. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 46 insertions, \$11.75. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 47 insertions, \$12.00. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 48 insertions, \$12.25. 1 Square of 16 lines or less, 49 insertions, \$12.50. 1 Square